

Strikes About The Right Idea

Following is the city platform of the Socialists as adopted recently at Fitchburg, Massachusetts and is a good sample and guide for Socialists to follow when drafting municipal platforms. While it is not perfect, it is probably the best municipal Socialist platform yet published. It is as follows:

We, the Socialist voters of Fitchburg in caucus assembled, renew our allegiance to the principles of international Socialism, and confirming the nation and state platforms of our party adopted in 1904, present the voters of Fitchburg these same principles worked out in detail, to be applied to municipal rather than to national issues, as our platform in this campaign.

We believe that a working man should get the equivalent of all that he produces, and we demand that he should get it. As the only means of realizing this demand, we declare that the people who get only a small share of what they produce (the working class) should peacefully, at the ballot box, take possession of the government and convert this land of trusts, capitalists, oppression, tyranny, "bull-pens," child murder, graft, starvation for the poor and extravagant luxury for the rich, into a Co-operative Commonwealth, "of the people, for the people and by the people."

In the campaign just closed the two old parties stood for the same principles; there was practically no difference in their platforms; they were both pledged to the monied interests, or as we say, the capitalist class.

In this campaign the two old parties stand on no platform; the last alleged difference that existed between them has been removed the past year; they both stand for the capitalist class in this city (the manufacturers, merchants, etc.) and are pledged to their interests, as opposed to the working class.

As a majority party we would put our principles as a whole into operation; but as a minority party we favor all measures of benefit to the working class as a whole, and such as will lead to the establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth.

We, therefore favor the following measures:

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

Municipal ownership of street railways, lighting plant, ice-houses, coal and wood yards, and such other industries as are necessary to the life of our citizens.

These may be operated in three different ways, circumstances to determine.

1. All service absolutely free of cost to the public, to be paid for out of general fund. (Instances, roads, streets, police and fire departments.)
2. Service at cost of production. (Instances, water department, post-office department.)
3. Service to be run at a profit to the city, and used for the benefit of the whole community; none of the profits, however, to be used toward the reduction of taxes.

A particular instance, peculiarly adapted to local conditions is our lighting plant.

Many cities in our country as well as in England and other countries, now own their lighting plants, and Fitchburg should not be too far behind. There is no reason why this city should own its water supply which does not equally apply to the gas and electric lighting plant. Why should we pay \$100 per year for each arc light when other cities similarly situated provide it at 65 dollars or less with their own plants? The saving on this one item would go far toward providing for other

much needed improvements.

LABOR.

Abolition of contract labor on city work.

The pensioning of all city employees

tendency of the present time to make them merely preparatory for the higher education that is available only to the rich. Our schools should make their strongest effort for those who are fitting for every-day life rather than for those who are fitting for high school or colleges. No pupil should graduate from a grammar school without a thorough knowledge of arithmetic and other common studies of earlier days. Too many have done so. The great majority never attend a high school; therefore they are the ones entitled to the most careful consideration.

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Triumph of Labor, By Walter

Legislators Are Still "Working"

On January 25 the first battle over the initiative and referendum took place in the house. It came up over a substitute bill introduced for the bills Nos. 1 and 2.

munication was read from the State Federation of Labor for direct legislation, and urging that the Oregon form of initiative be adopted. The petition said that the passage of any other bill than house bill No. 1 would be a subterfuge.

Every utterance and move shows conclusively that the republicans have no intention of passing a law similar to the Oregon law.

On the 26th little was done in either branch of the legislature except the routine work, such as to convene and adjourn.

On the 27th Representative Sanden's joint memorial No. 1 relating to the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people, passed the senate.

Maddox's bill prohibiting the employment of children under 16 years of age in underground mines was passed.

Of course the 28th being Saturday the capitalist law makers for the people (?) with pockets stuffed with transportation, in some instances for the whole family, went home to rest over Sunday after their hard week's work.

On Monday the 30th slaughtering began when Senator Whipple's bill providing for the semi-annual payment of taxes was killed in the house, notwithstanding that certain business associations were petitioning for the same.

A petition was read urging that the meat and milk inspection law be not repealed, and a communication from the Montana branch of the Fraternal Congress was received protesting against placing fraternal societies under the operation of the insurance law.

House bill No. 32 was signed by the governor, authorizing school trustees to issue bonds for the purpose of raising funds to carry on the school.

The report of the judiciary committee making it illegal for women to be notaries public was adopted.

Dempster's measure providing a whipping post for wife beaters was reported adversely and the report was adopted.

On the 31st, the last day in the month, the woman suffrage measure came up, and had you heard some of the speeches, you would have imagined they were Socialists to hear them plead to have this measure submitted to vote of the people.

Clancy, Jan. 30, 1905.

Montana News:

Among the countless number of bills that have been introduced in the present legislature is a bill to establish a state board of health. This is very good, but see the secretary is to receive the sum of \$3,000 per year salary, and another bill has been introduced to cut the salaries of the sheriffs. That's right, take it from the men who do the work and give it to the parasite; thus it has been and always will be under the present grafting system of government. If there is any officer in the outfit who deserves any more than \$2.00 per day, which I doubt, it is the sheriff. He is on duty from the time that he takes hold of the job until his term runs out. 24 hours a day, and he certainly should get the big end of the swag. The next bill that comes up should be one to cut the hours of work of the senate and house. I'm afraid the members will be prostrated by over work or go to sleep on duty and let the initiative and referendum bill run into the bill for the taxation of old maids or else let the bill to prevent scab on sheep collide with the bill to take the final e off of Clarke.

JOHN BRACK.



—From The Crisis, Salt Lake, Utah.

(including school teachers) who have faithfully served the city for many years.

Rigid enforcement of all labor and factory inspection laws, and laws for the protection of women and minors.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

An efficient and economical hospital service, free to all.

The equal enforcement of health laws among rich as well as poor.

The establishment of a proper standard as to light, ventilation, over-crowding, and sanitary arrangements in tenements and other buildings, and the condemnation and destruction by the city of all buildings not conforming to the standard.

LIQUOR QUESTION.

The extension of our principle of national government control to the liquor traffic, thus doing away with the perennial local wrangles over the matter, the results of which, at their best, are transitory and devoid of satisfaction to the people as a whole.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The city now furnishes textbooks free to school children. It should also furnish free clothing and free meals. Proper nourishment and protection from the weather are as necessary to the education of our children as textbooks. We especially condemn the niggardly retrenchment that refuses to appropriate the usual \$200 for shoes for needy children. While our public schools are our finest institutions, yet we regret the

In history and economics the proletarian standpoint should receive equal consideration with the capitalist standpoint.

Instruction of children as to child labor legislation, and as to their rights before the law.

CITIZENSHIP.

Equal civil and political rights for men and women.

WARNING.

But in advocating these measures we warn the working class against the so-called public ownership parties, and of such planks in old party platforms, as an attempt of the capitalist class to get a stronger hold upon the reins of government, and thereby to increase their power to draw profits out of labor in other industry.

Workingmen: Socialism is your only hope; without it you are slaves; with it you may gain freedom, not only for yourselves but for the millions unborn.

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Simple Questioning of a Child.

Little Edith: "Mother, does God rule the world?"
Mother: "Yes, my child."
Mother: "Does God love dogs better than he loves children?"
"Why no, my dear, why do you ask?"
"Because I see many dogs that are well fed and many little children starving and being neglected."

On the second day of the session Lanstrum introduced house bill No. 1, being a bill for the initiative and referendum. Just following this Demster introduced practically the same bill. Ever since then these bills have been in the hands of the committee on privileges and elections.

On the same date that the above bills were being discussed a com-

"But my dear, the dogs that are well fed belong to the rich and it is only the children of the poor that you see starving and neglected."

"Well, mother, does God love the dogs of the rich better than he loves the children of the poor?"

"O, no, my dear! The poor who are good and go to church, will get their reward in the hereafter."

"But, mother, poor little children that are starving cannot go to church at all times and besides I read in the paper that 35,000 little children starved to death last year and many rich people hired a hotel to keep their dogs in nice warm rooms with plenty of food. Now mother, if God treats the dogs better than little children I do not love God and if the little children that starved to death that could not go to church will go to some bad place called hell, I want to go to hell too, for I could not love to go to heaven and see God if he wants little children to starve while dogs are well fed."

"Run on dear, you do not understand yet."—New Time.